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4-7-1960

# Letter from Patti Mattox Bryant to F. W. and Mildred Mattox

Patti Mattox Bryant

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April 7, 1960

Dear Mother + Daddy,

We're here in Nigeria + doing fine. Hope you got the telegram we sent the day after we arrived. It wasn't possible for us to send a telegram the day we arrived because we landed in P.H. after the office had closed. We were supposed to land at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday but the plane schedule had been recently changed to arrive at 3:30 p.m. When we were approaching P.H. we saw a big storm ahead + turned around and went back to Enugu. We waited there about 30 min. + then took off again because the pilot had word that the storm was lifting. He said if it was not possible to land we would fly to Lagos + go to P.H. the next day. We were able to land, however, and were surprised that practically all the missionaries had waited til we got there about 5:30. They had waited from 12:00 til 5:30. The enclosed picture was made right after we got off the plane. Ken had changed into a sport shirt after we went back to Enugu. Sara Jo looks that way because she had just been sick on the plane. It was the only time anyone was sick + she was sick only from Enugu to P.H. the last time she was real brave + asked for the paper bag. I think when she gets to be Helen's age she will be just as graceful. I've never seen a neater sickness. We were all a little tired since we had been traveling since 2:45 that morning when we boarded at Tripoli.

We had a wonderful time at Tripoli. It was cool and pleasant. We went to the beach + let the children play. Rees went skin-diving with snorkels. We saw an old Roman ruin which must have been magnificent in its day. We made some movies which we will send for you to either have developed or which will already be developed when they get to you. The Lawrence Dayton are fine. They are doing a good work among the airforce



people, but almost none among the Moslems. They are not allowed to proselyte the ~~Moslems~~ <sup>Moslems</sup> but can teach them if they voluntarily come to service. But the American work is very encouraging - nominal church members become strong by being put to work & go back home stronger Christians. Fewer say they have more baptisms than the average church in America.

Katie & Max are fine. They are almost decided to come to Fulbourn. Max would like to work with Jim Kivory & learn how to do good personal work. They are very concerned about Bob.

Gerald & Bobbie Paden are coming home after 7 years in Italy. December is the time I believe.

The Masseys are so wonderful. We are making it fine with our 6 children although at times it gets pretty hectic. Mrs. the washerman, hasn't showed up. He was supposed to come yesterday & today. Our wet diapers are piled high but our spirits are higher. It is so good to be back & start getting settled again. Our Nigerian Friends seemed happy to see us & we were so glad to see them, and catch up on some of the news.

Gerry & Bill are busy getting ready to leave. Tomorrow people from all the churches around here are coming for a combination welcome & farewell program. All the missionaries will be here, too. The program will last all morning & there will be sports ("spots" Bro. Akanda says) in the afternoon.

Next Sun. & Mon. we will have a short "retreat" at Ukpom - Bible study & speeches from the men.

We got your good letter. Sara Jo enjoyed the stamps. We look back on the past 6 months with pleasant ~~memories~~ <sup>all</sup> I think we did very well. If our love can stand 6 months of living together, it will last forever. We know ~~to~~ having us there was a big strain but you were always so good to us. We love you so much & we're proud of you.  
Love, Patti